



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

September 10, 2013

UPDATE: Citizens' group pitches \$1 purchase of Harmony Way Bridge | POLL

Evansville Courier & Press

Mary Orr

9/9/13

NEW HARMONY, Ind. — New Harmony's town council met Monday to hear a citizens' group's proposal for reopening the Harmony Way Bridge. The bridge, which spans the Wabash River between New Harmony and White County, Ill., has been closed since May 2012 because of structural deficiencies. Currently, the bridge is under control of the White County Bridge Commission, a three-member private group with one member from Indiana and two from Illinois. A newly formed group called the Harmony Way Bridge Committee began meeting this summer to come up with ideas for reopening the bridge. The group has eight members, four each from Indiana and Illinois. At a public meeting Monday morning, committee members proposed that the town could purchase the bridge for \$1, issue bonds to pay for repairs and repay the bonds over time with money from bridge tolls. Another option, the group said, is to pursue grants or other funding. The committee proposes increasing the bridge toll to \$2.50 for a one-way trip or \$5 for a round trip. At the time of its closing the bridge toll was \$1 per vehicle. Committee member Linda Henning, who lives in Crossville, Ill., said businesses in both Indiana and Illinois have taken a hit since the bridge's closure. Henning also cited potential economic development projects, namely the fertilizer plant planned for Mount Vernon, Ind. and the potential oil and gas boom that hydraulic fracturing may bring to Southern Illinois, as reasons the bridge is needed. "We don't want to die on the vine," Henning said. But not everyone was in favor of the group's proposal.

[UPDATE: Citizens' group pitches \\$1 purchase of Harmony Way Bridge | POLL » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

White River freight bridge to be replaced thanks to federal grant

Greene County Daily World

9/6/13

Indiana U.S. Senator Joe Donnelly (D) announced a federal grant awarded to the Indiana Department of Transportation for an infrastructure project critical to community transportation in Greene County. The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER Discretionary Grant, allows Indiana's DOT the opportunity to replace the 110-year-old White River Freight Railroad Bridge, at Elliston, with a new bridge structure. This \$8.2 million project will improve freight transportation in Greene County by supporting industry weight standards for railcars and will remove the current clearance restrictions set by the current bridge. Senator Donnelly wrote a letter to the U.S. Department of Transportation supporting this project stating, "Hoosier businesses and businesses around the country rely on our state's efficient infrastructure so that their products are delivered on time and production can be at its peak. This grant provided

by the Department of Transportation will help the local economy and will allow businesses to more efficiently transport goods in and through Greene County." The TIGER Discretionary Grant Program is a highly competitive process and receives interest from applicants across the country. For FY 2012, the DOT awarded 46 projects to 33 states and Puerto Rico, and each selected project is multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional, or otherwise challenging to fund through existing programs. [Greene County Daily World: Local News: White River freight bridge to be replaced thanks to federal grant \(09/06/13\)](#)

Bridge toll decision pulled from agenda at last minute

The Courier-Journal

Charlie White

9/5/13

No decision was made Thursday morning on how much it will cost to use the new Ohio River bridges after an Indiana official surprised other members of the bi-state Ohio River Bridges Project board and tolling body by taking the issue off the agenda. Project officials from Kentucky and Indiana say attorneys for both sides are still working through details of how the toll rates will fit into the overarching development agreement between the two states. No specifics were given as to exactly which details are left to be finalized, but representatives from both states publicly agreed they need to take action as soon as possible before interest rates rise, making it more expensive to borrow part of the funding for the \$2.6 billion project. A discussion of toll rates was removed from Thursday's agenda at the request of Kendra York, who sits on the joint board and tolling body as public finance director for the Indiana Finance Authority. The issue was moved for discussion at the bodies' next meetings, which haven't been scheduled yet. Mike Hancock, secretary of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, stressed to other members of the joint board that "delays in this process could create increases in interest rates" and possibly higher tolling rates. Hancock said after the meeting that he was "genuinely surprised" when he learned during the meetings that details haven't been finalized, but he remains confident the states can continue to work together to "get it done" in the coming weeks. [Bridge toll decision pulled from agenda at last minute | The Courier-Journal | courier-journal.com](#)

IndyGo wins \$10M federal grant for 22 electric buses

Indianapolis Star

Jon Murray

9/5/13

The federal government has awarded IndyGo a \$10 million grant to replace nearly two dozen diesel buses with fully electric buses. Rather than buying new buses, IndyGo plans to recondition 22 buses and replace their engines with electric propulsion systems. The \$555,000 cost of each conversion is similar to the cost of a new diesel bus, according to a news release. The money, along with a local match, also will pay for charging stations at IndyGo's Westside hub and at a planned Downtown transit center that is set to open in late 2015. IndyGo's award was among \$474 million in grants announced Thursday by the U.S. Department of Transportation for 52 projects in 37 states, under the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program. The Indiana Department of Transportation also won a \$8.2 million grant for replacement of the White River freight railroad bridge. "IndyGo is thrilled to have the opportunity to be on the leading edge of the transit industry with the project," said IndyGo's President and CEO Michael Terry. "We're always investigating innovative ways to refresh our fleet and use technology to build capacity with the limited funds that are available to operate vital transit services." Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard joined Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed and Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx on a conference call with reporters Thursday to discuss the grants. Ballard's call to replace the entire city fleet with alternative-fuel technology has gained attention nationally. "Today's announcement of the TIGER grant award supports our city's goal to reduce dependence on foreign oil," said a statement from Ballard. "By introducing zero-emission, post-oil

technology public transit buses, we're making another successful leap in the right direction.”
[IndyGo wins \\$10M federal grant for 22 electric buses | Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#)

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